

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2903

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, UK

SUBJ: CIVAIR - SEABOARD 747 SCHEDULE

1. WE HAD FURTHER DISCUSSIONS AUGUST 8 WITH KEMMIS, DEPT. OF TRADE, CONCERNING SEABOARD 747 SCHEDULE. AS WE EXPECTED, KEMMIS SAID UK COULD NOT ACCEPT OUR CONTENTION THAT SERVICE AS PROPOSED BY SEABOARD WAS WITHIN TERMS OF AGREEMENT. WE SUGGESTED THAT SEABOARD MIGHT INSTEAD OPERATE WITHOUT ANY CHANGE OF FLIGHT NUMBER A ROUND-ROBIN SERVICE EITHER NEW YORK/PARIS/LONDON/ NEW YORK OR VICE VERSA. KEMMIS, HOWEVER, SAID THIS NOT CONSISTENT WITH ROUTE DESCRIPTION EITHER BECAUSE UNDER FIRST ROUTING, PARIS SERVED AS INTERMEDIATE POINT TO LONDON AND UNDER BOTH FIRST AND SECOND ROUTINGS NEW YORK SERVED AS A POINT BEYOND LONDON.

2. KEMMIS DID, HOWEVER, FINALLY AGREE THAT UK WOULD "TURN BLIND EYE" AND NOT OBJECT IF SEABOARD WANTED TO OPERATE NEW YORK/LONDON/PARIS (CHANGE FLIGHT NUMBER)/ NEW YORK AND CARRY ON THIS SERVICE LONDON/NEW YORK CARGO OVER PARIS. HE SAID UK DID NOT BELIEVE SUCH A SERVICE WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH TERMS OF AGREEMENT AND HE STRESSED HE OFFERING TO LET SERVICE OPERATE ONLY AS A GESTURE OF GOOD-WILL AND THAT US SHOULD NOT LATER ATTEMPT INTERPRET HIS CONCESSION AS COMPROMISING BASIC BRITISH POSITION. HE ALSO HINTED THAT AT SOME UNSPECI-

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FIED FUTURE TIME UKG MIGHT WANT TO RE-EXAMINE WHETHER

IT WILL CONTINUE TO "TURN BLIND EYE" TO SEABOARD'S
CARRIAGE OF LONDON/NEW YORK TRAFFIC OVER PARIS.

3. WE POINTED OUT THAT FRENCH AUTHORITIES COULD REQUIRE
30-DAY ADVANCE NOTICE ON REVISION OF SCHEDULE AND WE
PRESSED KEMMIS FOR GRACE PERIOD DURING WHICH SEABOARD
MIGHT OPERATE AS ORIGINALLY PROPOSED WHILE IT
REASSESSED ITS 747 OPERATIONS AND REFILED AS
MIGHT BE APPROPRIATE. KEMMIS SAID HE DID NOT BELIEVE
FRENCH WOULD POSE AN OBJECTION TO SHORT NOTICE REFILING
BUT IF THEY INSISTED ON 15 OR 30 DAYS NOTICE, SEABOARD
COULD ASK HIM TO RECONSIDER POSSIBILITY OF VERY SHORT
TERM RELIEF.

4. COMMENT: WE DO NOT BELIEVE WE WILL GET ANY FURTHER
CONCESSIONS FROM BRITISH AND WE WOULD RECOMMEND THAT SEA-
BOARD BE URGED TO ALTER ITS SCHEDULES ACCORDINGLY.
DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO CONSIDER WHETHER WE SHOULD GIVE
BRITISH WRITTEN NOTICE THAT WE DO NOT AGREE WITH THEIR
INTERPRETATION OF AGREEMENT AND THAT WE RESERVE OUR
POSITION.

SOHM

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